

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today spoke with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate to request additional help in the aftermath of floods caused by the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Hinchey asked the Administrator to ensure that small businesses, families, farmers and local governments affected by a second round of flooding be given additional resources.

"Administrator Fugate and all of the FEMA staff are working around the clock and doing a great job," said Hinchey. "Unfortunately, the latest storms destroyed much of the recovery work that was done after Hurricane Irene, so the affected counties, in many cases, are going to have to start the recovery process all over again. Tropical Storm Lee caused more flooding and more damage, and people in Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties are going to need more assistance as a result. I'm going to continue fighting for every last dime of federal assistance needed to get this region back on its feet."

Hinchey has worked to ensure that counties in the Congressional District he represents have the disaster declarations necessary to receive federal assistance. Following Hurricane Irene, Hinchey led 19 of his House colleagues in requesting an expanded disaster declaration from President Obama. Prior to that, he sought an emergency disaster declaration for Dutchess County and brought the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Ulster County to tour flooded areas. He has also introduced legislation and has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expedite and provide additional assistance to farmers affected by the flooding.